

# THE DATA DETECTIVE

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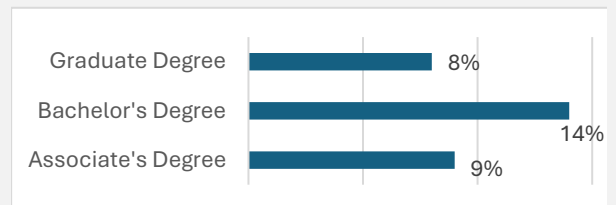
## Introducing!

Welcome to the Inaugural Edition of the quarterly newsletter from ASPIRE! Take a break, peruse our newsletter, and nerd out with us.

Okay, at this point some of you are saying “*What is ASPIRE????*”. ASPIRE stands for Assessment, Strategic Planning, Institutional Research and Effectiveness which is just a fancy way of saying “we do data” and are here to serve you in all your data needs.

## One Little Thing...

In the WVC service district of Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan Counties, 31% of our population has a post-secondary degree



## What Kind of Data Do We Analyze?

We think of WVC data in four Domains:

**Institutional Data**—This is data that is collected about the college and includes things like Institutional Scorecards, Enrollment, Strategic Plan Metrics, etc.

Much of this data can be found on our website [dashboards](#). Take a few moments to check them out!

**Program/Division/Group Data**—Drilling down in smaller chunks from institutional data is data for

smaller subsets such as instructional and non-instructional units.

This includes things like Transitional Studies, Student Affairs, MESA, etc. Many groups request data because they want to know how they are doing and where they can improve.

**Required Data**—There is a domain of data that is required reporting. This includes federal regulations such as IPEDS as well as grant funded projects such as Title V, CAMP, etc. To maintain funding, this type of data is required to be reported to show progress.

**Individual or Ad hoc Data**—My favorite domain of data is when we help individual faculty or staff with interesting questions that they are trying to answer in order to make changes or evaluate the effectiveness of changes they have made. Got an idea but don't know how to get started? Come see us!!!!

*Without data, you are just another person with an opinion.*

~Quote Attributed to W. Edwards Deming

# Winter Quarter Data Dive: The #DuBoisChallenge2025

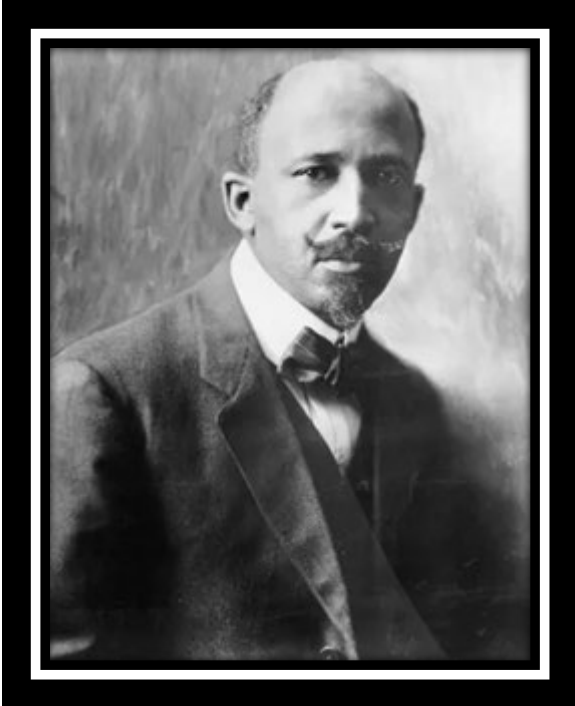


Figure 1: W.E.B. Du Bois in 1919. Photographer: Cornelius Marion Battey. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division

In each issue of *The Data Detective*, we will have some interesting data to contemplate and question. Sometimes that data will come from our own dashboards and sometimes it will be something interesting and relevant from the world around us. In this case, we are going back to history to examine some amazing data visualizations that were way ahead of their time.

If you have ever studied sociology, you have studied the work of William Edward Burghart (W.E.B.) Du Bois, a renowned sociologist, scholar, historian, and activist. Du Bois was the first black man that graduated with a PhD from Harvard University in 1895, 30 years after the emancipation of slavery in the United States (US). He was instrumental in the formation of the NAACP and the Niagara Movement. Du Bois was also a prolific writer and researcher. He was the first scholar who researched and wrote a case study of a black community in the US in 1899,

but one of his most famous writings was a book, “The Souls of Black Folk”. I highly recommend reading it.

One thing that many people don’t know about Du Bois was that he created a set of powerful data visualizations for an exhibit at the world’s fair in Paris in 1900. “The Exhibit of American Negroes” at the Exposition Universelle was created by Du Bois, in collaboration with Booker T. Washington, prominent lawyer Thomas J. Calloway, the assistant librarian at the Library of Congress Daniel Murray, and students from the historically black college Atlanta University. The basis of the exhibit was over 500 photographs and 58 stunning hand drawn data visualizations. The charts illustrated conditions of black Americans in the entire United States and in the state of Georgia.

Living in Georgia during the time of the Jim Crow laws and segregation, Du Bois used the exhibit to tell the story of the resilience and humanity of black Americans post slavery. Although the exhibit was largely ignored by the American press, over 50 million people walked through in the seven months it was on display. An activist who fought for civil rights his whole life, Du Bois died on August 27, 1963, the day before Martin Luther King Jr. gave the “I Have a Dream” speech on the Washington, DC mall.

In 2021, to bring the Du Bois visualizations to light, Allen Hillery, Sekou Tyler, and Anthony Stark, all who work in the data/computer science field, created the #DuBoisChallenge. Each year the contest features a collection of ten hand drawn Du Bois visualizations and challenges the data science community to recreate them with modern technology. The challenge lasts ten weeks with one visualization a week starting the first week of February. Participants are asked to display their visualizations on social media with the hashtag #DuBoisChallenge2025. For more information, see

the announcement at the [Data Visualization Society](#). The focus of the 2025 challenge is on Economics and the visualizations can be seen in the picture below.

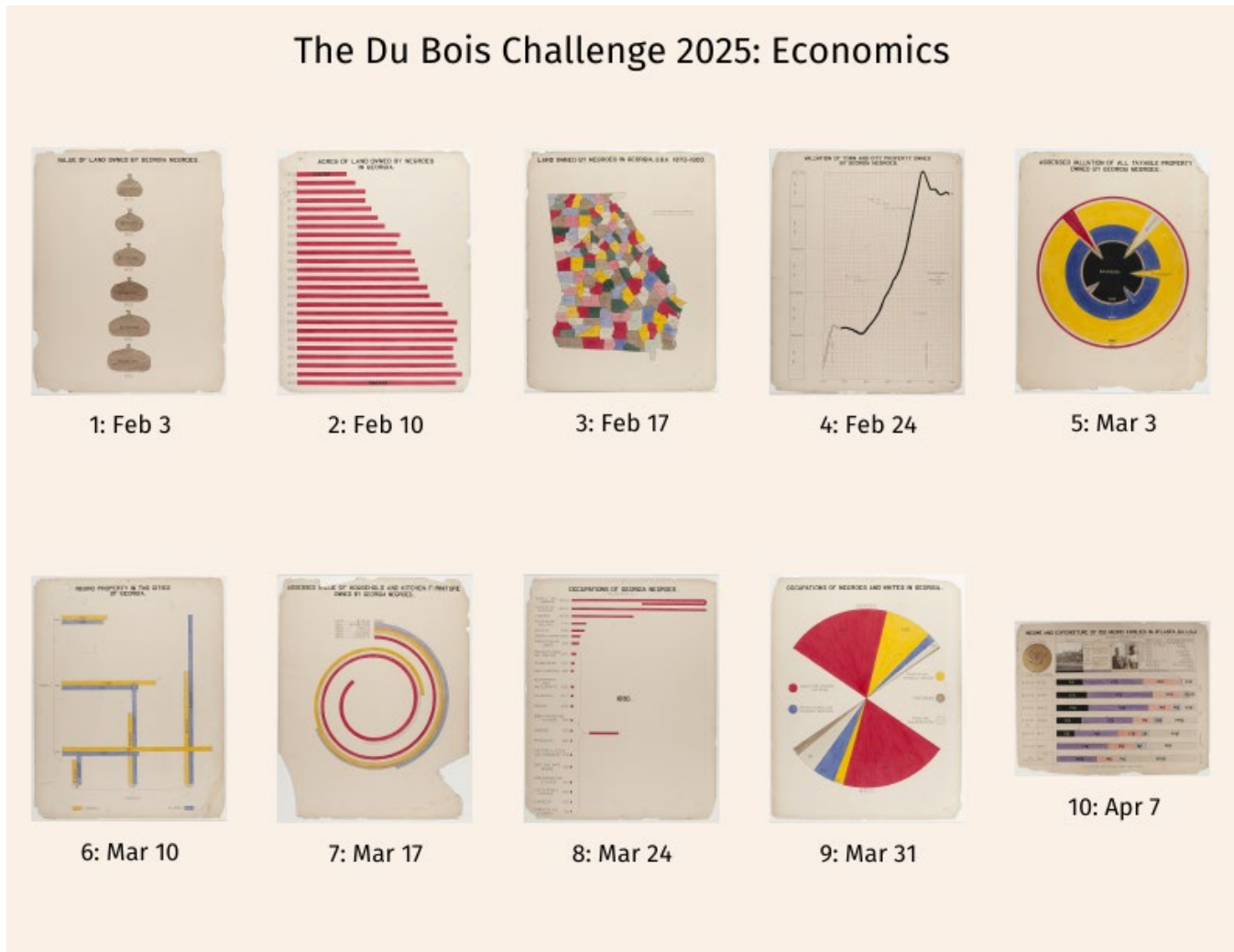


Figure 2: Data Visualizations from the 2025 Du Bois Challenge

## Data Dive Question of the Quarter:

Each quarter we will have a question of the quarter regarding our data dive. Send in your responses for a chance to be featured in next quarter's issue of *The Data Detective*!

**Winter Quarter's Question:** Choose one of the Du Bois Visualizations that you find interesting and find the story of the data. What is one thing that noticed that surprised you? Send your response along with the data visualization you chose to [aspire@wvc.edu](mailto:aspire@wvc.edu).

More information on the legacy and life of Du Bois can be found at [The Data Visualizations of W.E.B. Du Bois — Jason Forrest](#). To see the entire set of visualizations and photographs from the Paris exhibition click on the Digital Resource tab at the Library of Congress: [Introduction - W. E. B. Du Bois: A Resource Guide - Research Guides at Library of Congress](#).

## Winter Quarter Data Rock Stars!

This quarter ASPIRE wants to give kudos to Riva Morgan and the team from Transitional Studies! The Transitional Studies team added two new courses in Speaking and Listening skills to help non-native English speakers progress through their English Language Arts courses. Riva and her team used data to show the positive effect this course has had on student success! Students in level A or B of English Language Arts improved from a 30% success rate to a 45% success rate when taking the Speaking and Listening course either concurrently or sequentially. Student success in level C or D of English Language Arts improved from 40% to 46% when combined with the Speaking and Listening course.

Way to go Transitional Studies! YOU ARE DATA ROCK STARS!

If you need data, contact the ASPIRE team!  
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Figure 3: The ASPIRE Team: Victor, Robin and Hadley